

REMARKS

Applicant courteously acknowledges the Examiner's indication that the specification did not include a reference to Applicant's priority application, EP 02290864.4, filed April 5, 2002. The specification has been amended to refer to this priority application, as well as Applicant's intervening PCT application.

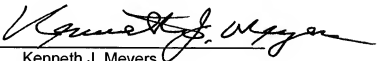
This Amendment is being filed before the payment of the Issue Fee. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner recommend entry of this Amendment pursuant to the provision of 37 C.F.R. § 1.312, without withdrawing this case from issue.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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